

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 AF-06 OPIC-03 CIAE-00

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P R 261745Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3950

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PT, PO

SUBJ: TIMOR CRISIS

1. COL LOPES PIRES, MILITARY GOVERNOR OF TIMOR, SAID IN AUG 25 STATEMENT THAT PORTUGUESE SITUATION IN DILI WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DESPERATE. PORTUGUESE ENCLAVE IN DILI, WHICH HOLDS DEPENDENTS AS WELL AS SOLDIERS, WAS REPORTED UNDER MORTAR AND GRENADE ATTACK. PIRES STATED THAT UNDER THE MOST FAVORABLE CONDITIONS HE COULD HOLD OUT "UNTIL AUG 27. AFTER THAT I DON'T KNOW." SAME STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT PORTUGUESE TROOPS WERE INCAPABLE OF STABILIZING RAPIDLY DETERIORATING SITUATION DUE TO THEIR DEMORALIZED STATE.

2. A TIMOR COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY AUG 25 CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DILI WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE ZONES: (A) UDT-CONTROLLED WESTERN PART OF CITY, DEFINED BY LINE OF VICTORY HOUSE MONUMENT, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AND SLAUGHTERHOUSE; (B) FRETILIN-CONTROLLED EASTERN PART, WHICH INCLUDED ALL MILITARY BARRACKS AND COMMERCIAL

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ZONE; (C) GOP-CONTROLLED NEUTRAL ZONE ENCOMPASSING PART OF THE

PORT AND MILITARY HOUSING SECTOR.

-- GOP REPRESENTATIVES ARE ALLOWED BY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO CIRCULATE IN DILI BY DAY.

-- SITUATION IN INTERIOR WAS STILL UNKNOWN.

-- THOUSANDS OF TIMORANS AND CHINESE CONTINUED TO SEEK REFUGE IN ZONE NEAR PORT AND CHURCH.

-- FRETILIN HELD CAPTIVE 11 PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS IN MAUBISSE AS WELL AS SEVERAL IN AILEU. EX-POLICE CHIEF, A UDT SYMPATHIZER WAS ALSO REPORTED CAPTIVE.

-- HOSTILITIES CONTINUED UNABATED IN DILI.

3. CLOSING THE COMMUNIQUE, PRESIDENCY REITERATED APPEAL TO AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA TO AID IN EVACUATING THE THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES AND TO INTERVENE TO REESTABLISH PEACE IN TERRITORY. CARLUCCI

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